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RIBES HUDSONIANUM VERSUS RIBES RIGENS

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(Plate 1087)

The Hudsonian calciphilous species of *Ribes* known as *Ribes hudsonianum* Richards. was believed to be an addition to the flora of Quebec when in 1944 Rousseau and Rouleau collected the plant at Lake Mistassini.

Ribes hudsonianum was described by Richardson (Bot. App. Frankl. Narr. Journey Shores Polar Sea, 2nd ed., p. 734 (reprint p. 6), 1823) from the Hudson Bay region "principally in lat. 57°, on a calcareous soil, in dry woods". The description agreed very well with the collections made at Lake Mistassini in 1944 as well as others made later by ROUSSEAU in 1946.

During the compilation of a check-list of the plants of the region of Lake Mistassini, it was necessary to include the plants cited by Michaux in his *Flora Boreali-Americana* (1803). For that region, he mentions five species of *Ribes*. (1) *Ribes recurvatum* (1: 109): "ad ripas amnis Larorum (*des Goëlands*) juxta sinum *Hudsonis* [i. e. Rupert River]", now reduced to the synonymy of *Ribes americanum* Mill. of which no further collections have been made during recent explorations in the region of Lake Mistassini; (2) *Ribes albinervium* (1: 110): "in Canada, ad amnem *Mistassin*", a synonym of *Ribes triste* Pallas; (3) *Ribes rigens* (1: 110): "in Canada, ad amnem *Mistassin*", reduced to *Ribes glandulosum* Grauer by most authors; (4) *Ribes trifidum* (1: 110): "juxta *Quebec* et sinum *Hudsonis*", which the majority of authors likewise reduce to the synonymy of *Ribes glandulosum* Grauer; (5) *Ribes oxyacanthoides?* (1: 111): "ad lacus *Mistassins*",

which according to Professor Fernald is *Ribes lacustre* (in an annotated copy of Michaux's *Flora Boreali-Americana* deposited in the Gray Herbarium).

A surprising fact was the reduction of *Ribes rigens* and *R. trifidum* to the synonymy of *Ribes glandulosum*. To the author's knowledge, Michaux never described two species which were subsequently united under the same specific name.

Fortunately, in the collection of photographs of types of the Michaux herbarium in the Institut botanique of the Université de Montréal, both sheets had been photographed. It was therefore possible to check the identities.

The description of *Ribes trifidum*, supplemented by the photograph of the type, permits one to reduce the species correctly to *Ribes glandulosum* Grauer.

The photograph of *Ribes rigens* could not be matched with any specimens of *Ribes glandulosum*. It closely resembles the collection made at Lake Mistassini by ROUSSEAU and ROULEAU.

Michaux's description of *Ribes rigens* reads as follows:

RIGENS. *R. inerme*, racemis rectis : foliis super glabris, subtus pubescentibus, reticulato-rugosis, lobis dentibusque acutis : racemis laxiuscule multifloris, etiam fructiferis rigescenti-erectis : baccis hispidulis, rubris.

Obs. Baccae uti racemus erectae.

Hab. in Canada, ad amnem *Mistassin*.

The description is supplemented with the following notes given by Michaux on his label: "gros fruits rouges, poileux. Cet arbrisseau est assés abondant sur les Rivières qui coulent aux Mistassins. Il est chargé de fruits à la fin d'Aoust, le gout est bon, mais un peu l'odeur du Cassis."

If we compare the diagnostic characters which Michaux gives for *Ribes rigens* and those stated by Richardson for his *Ribes hudsonianum*, they are basically the same.

Michaux	Richardson
<i>Ribes inerme</i> , racemis rectis	<i>Ribes</i> . . . inerme, ramis erectis.
Foliis super glabris, subtus pubescentibus, reticulato-rugosis, lobis dentibusque acutis	Foliis trilobis, supra glaberrima, subtus resinoso-punctatis.
Racemis laxiuscule multifloris etiam fructiferis rigescenti-erectis.	Racemis erectis pubescentibus.
Baccis hispidulis, rubris.	Baccis globosis glabris (nigris).

Rehder (*Man. Cult. Tr. Shrubs*, p. 301, 1940) cites essentially the same characters: "Upright shrub . . . lvs. . . . 3-5-lobed,

with ovate acute or obtusish, coarsely dentate lobes, pubescent and resinous-glandular beneath; fls. . . . in erect, loosely-flowered racemes; ovary resinous-glandular; . . . fr. black."

The only inconsistencies found in comparing the descriptions relate to the fruit. The color of the fruit which Michaux gives was probably based on specimens not fully mature. Many of the plants he collected at the end of August and early September 1803 tend to indicate that the vegetative season must have been retarded that year just as in 1946 (fide Rousseau), it was much later than in 1945 or 1944. On the other hand, Richardson's statement of the fruits being black was probably founded on that of another species since two isotypes deposited in the Gray Herbarium are those of the plant in its flowering stage only. As to the ovary, the "baccis hispidulis" of Michaux agrees with the "resinous-glandular" in Rehder. As stated above, Richardson's fruits ("glabris") were probably from another species. Plants of that interesting *Ribes* are cultivated at the Montreal Botanical Garden so that eventually, a more perfect description of the flowers and fruits will be drawn.

A very striking character noted by Michaux was the taste of the fruit: "le goût est bon, mais un peu l'odeur du Cassis". The "Cassis", i. e. *Ribes nigrum*, the European Black Currant, is characterized by the peculiar heavy odor of the leaves and fruits when bruised. The same is true with *Ribes rigens* Michx. The fact is so striking that the Indians call this Currant "*chicacominnanatouk*" (skunk-berry shrub) while the other species are globally grouped under "*opiominanatouk*".

From the above discussion, it appears that the well-characterized *Ribes* described by Michaux in 1803 under the name *Ribes rigens* antedates *Ribes hudsonianum* Richardson, 1823.

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A NEW CLEMATIS FROM THE PEAKS OF OTTER.—

CLEMATIS VERTICILLARIS DC., var. **cacuminis**, var. nov., a var. typica recedit sepalis oblongo-ellipticis apice rotundatis vix apiculatis 2–3.3 cm. longis, crassioribus dorso cinereo-pilosis.—Bedford County, VIRGINIA: among rocks, roadside-bank, near summit of Sharp Top, Peaks of Otter, May 8, 1947, *Ruskin S. Freer*, no. 1385 (TYPE in Herb. Gray.).